

NOTICE.

I HAVE Established myself at this Port as a Merchant and Commission Agent.
A. MACG. BRATON.
491 Hongkong, 21st March, 1874.

NOTICE.

THE Interest and Responsibility of Mr. THOMAS PICKERING DOWNS, in our Firm, ceased on the 10th November, 1873.
SWATOW, CHINA, 10th October, 1874.

NOTICE.

MR. COLIN CAMPBELL WILLIAMS is this day admitted a Partner in our Firm.
P. VINCENT & Co.
Swatow, China, 10th October, 1874.

NOTICE.

I HAVE this day Established myself at this Port as a Merchant and Commission Agent.
B. I. ELIAS & Co.
In 1592, Hongkong, 1st October, 1874.

NOTICE.

For some nights past one who may have been in the neighbourhood of the goal—indeed even at some considerable distance from it—will remember hearing some terrible cries and shouts proceeding from the building. These wailing and shrieking noises have continued on many occasions during the whole of the night. Now will, believe what is actually the fact, that they proceed from a poor domestic creature—who has been placed in goal as a vagrant, but in reality for safe custody, as she is of unsound mind. It is impossible to convey an exaggerated impression of the heartrending effect of the monotonous sounds. At times the unfortunate being seems to be talking loudly, but still calmly to some imaginary interlocutor—but by-and-by, as she becomes more excited, her voice is raised, and inintermittent become first a shout, and then an awful and desperate yell, as if under delirium and despair. And well judged the poor wretched creature be desperate, as she is in a cell measuring about ten feet by eight, and discovering during her lucid intervals that she is alone, friendless, and in prison. That such a state of things should exist in a civilized community is most lamentable, and we trust that it will be speedily remedied. There is no question that upon several nights, the sufferings of the unfortunate being now in goal, have been needlessly and painfully prolonged, and could have been relieved by medical aid in the form of the injection of morphia or some other well known and familiar remedy. When it is borne in mind that the strain upon the unhappy victim's nervous system, and consequently the ultimate chances of recovery are dependent upon the length of the paroxysms, the urgency of not making some proper provision for these unfortunate people will be at once apparent. It has happened in many instances that patients suffering in this way have literally screamed themselves to death, and it is perfectly well known, not only to the medical community, but to a judicious application of sedatives will do much towards relieving immediate suffering and effecting an ultimate cure. Such rough and ready handling of such cases as is provided in this Colony is therefore not only cruel, but has a most serious bearing in the fact that some of these cases are curable by reasonable and judicious treatment. A very careful responsibility surely rests upon any authorities who, by taking a little care and pains, enable some unhappy creature to recover his reason, but fail to adopt even such measures as ordinary humanity would suggest. We do not intend by these remarks to blame the Superintendent of the goal, who can only act according to the means at his disposal, but we emphatically express our regret at the negligence which in a Colony where so much money is expended needlessly or for luxury, a want such as this has been left unprovided for. There could be no difficulty in providing some small suitable asylum in the suburbs where such patients could be under proper medical attendance and where their families would not be a source of painful annoyance to a large number in the neighbourhood. The feelings too of the other men in the goal ought also to be considered. Their punishments are often severe enough without their being kept awake, as many of them must be, during the long hours of the night by unearthly yells and with the consciousness that they are in close proximity to madness. The wailing prisoner who has passed through his heavy daily task, and depressed in spirits, at times even without hope enters his cell, and at the close of the day, only to look forward to another day as gloomy and hopeless as the one that is departing, might assuredly be left to sleep in peace, and to find in sleep—sleep that lends up the rugged slope of care—a relief from his hard toil and his gloomy thoughts. To many the wailing sounds must have a strong sympathetic effect, and may tend in some cases to induce madness in susceptible systems—while to all they must be terribly depressing, and looked at in the plainest light of common sense are a grievous infliction, if only on account of their depriving of rest men doomed to hard labour which, with the present severe discipline of the goal, means only too literally what the words import. We understand that the poor creature whose ravings have called forth these remarks is before long to be shipped away to San Francisco, and thence to her native place. It will be well, indeed, if the treatment which she has met with in a Colony boasting the Government of a nation which prides itself above all things on its humanity, should be the means of prolonging, perhaps indefinitely, the sad and painful malady with which she is afflicted.

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We observe that the Bishop of Victoria and Mrs. Burden are among the passengers per M. N. steamer, to leave Marseilles 25th October.

An inquest was held yesterday afternoon, before James Russell, Esq., Coroner, and a jury (Messrs. W. H. Noddy, C. S. de Brito, and A. A. Watson) on the body of Ching Ahk, a Chinese man, who died on the 10th October, 1874. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Burge, having given a concert about the middle of next month, which we understand is likely to prove a great success. All the distinguished artists have been invited to perform, and the Band of the 60th Regiment will, by kind permission of Colonel Smith, also lend its assistance.

We are glad to announce that the case of the seizure of the *Marine Levee* and *Goole* by the Spanish man-of-war at Swatow has been settled, and the owners are informed for losses—*London & China Express*.

The statement in our last of the probable appointment of a British Consul to Swatow, has been confirmed. Mr. Russell leaves by the mail of 30th Oct.—*Id.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
The Council met yesterday afternoon.

Present:—
Hon. Sir JOHN SMITH, Chief Justice.
Hon. G. M. STANLEY, Acting Colonial Secretary.
Hon. J. BRANTON, Attorney General.
Hon. C. MAY, Acting Colonial Treasurer.
Hon. W. H. ELIAS, Esq.

Hon. Mr. RYAN.
Hon. Mr. ROWE.

The Acting Colonial Secretary said that he had given notice that he would object on a point of order to the motion which had been made by the Hon. Mr. Ryan, in relation to the rules of the Council, any member might object against the decision of the Council. After notice he had given notice that he would object on a point of order to the motion which had been made by the Hon. Mr. Ryan, in relation to the rules of the Council, any member might object against the decision of the Council.

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The Council, as the official members were obliged to vote with the Governor, on being officially told so.

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"There had a good deal of experience in typhoons, and we were not at all alarmed by the storm, and I should have been guilty of the worst mistake had I not been so. The lives of the Police, before I did, on the night in question."

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